

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A Lifecycle Management Suite (LMS), according to one example embodiment, includes data-store, server, file-based data, and configuration tools components. APIs 5 exist within convergent billing (CB) and customer management (CM) OSS components for manipulation of the configuration. The nature of the APIs varies between these systems and depending on the configuration item, but they provide the ability to create, update and delete or obsolete configuration items in these systems. These APIs may be, however, low level – they deal with configuration in the terms of the OSS components.

10 The overall function of the configuration tools is to provide higher-level configuration items, such as the high-level product catalog items (that span multiple OSS components), or configuration policies and composite configuration items. The configuration server stores these higher level representations of configuration. It can be used to query the configuration in the OSS components, and to update it. It sends messages to OSS

15 components when configuration data is updated. Tools may be provided that can extract configuration from these systems, to an external file-based form, where it may easily be manipulated using file-based tools and to load the configuration from its file-based representation back into the OSS components. These are part of the configuration tools user interface. These tools interact with the OSS components via the configuration server. In order to manage the configuration effectively, version control tools may be provided. These are applied to the file-based data/representation of the configuration. These include basic tools for committing changes to configuration, viewing differences 20 between configuration, and grouping configuration items, for version control purposes. In order to develop products quickly and simply, a workbench development tool may be provided. This GUI application can work either off a file-based representation of the product definitions, or by communicating with the configuration server, via its APIs.

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